



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,040	10/10/2001	Hiroki Homma	Q66535	5048

7590 11/02/2004
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3627

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/973,040

Applicant(s)

HOMMA, HIROKI

Examiner

James S McClellan

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/10/01 & 2/20/04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3627

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicant's submission of Information Disclosure Statements on 10/10/01 and 2/20/04 have been considered as indicated by the attached signed copy of each PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,300,880 (hereinafter "Sitnik").

Regarding **claim 1**, Sitnik discloses a service system for allowing a person to listen to sound recorded in a recording medium as aural data, comprising: a first terminal (40); at least one second terminal (43) which is capable of making communication with said first terminal through a network (42, see Figure 2), said second terminal (43) being fixed in a predetermined closed area (a retail store; see column 22, line 60); and a plurality of third terminals (20; see column 1, lines 5-7, "portable receiver") each making communication with said second terminal (43) through radio signals (see column 16, lines 45-48), each of said third terminals (20) being held by said person and being movable within said predetermined closed area (retail store); said

Art Unit: 3627

first terminal (40) including a database (see Figure 3, "Central Database Server 40") storing aural data therein and distributing said aural data to said second terminal (43); said second terminal (43) storing therein said aural data distributed from said first terminal (40), and distributing (see Figure 3, "Local Information Distribution System 43") said aural data to each of said third terminals (20) in response to an access made by each of said third terminals (20) to said second terminal (43); each of said third terminals (20) making access to said second terminal by transmitting a signal indicative of aural data selected by a user (see column 3, lines 42-43), receiving (via receiver 25) aural data indicated by said signal, and reproducing the received aural data. The limitations of dependent **claims 2, 3, and 5** are shown in Figure 3 or disclosed in the specification (see specifically, column 22, line 55 - column 23, line 6).

Regarding **claim 8**, Sitnik discloses a service system in a shop (see column 22, line 60) selling recording mediums as set forth above in detail for claim 1.

Regarding **claim 9**, Sitnik discloses a service system in a shop (see column 22, line 60) selling recording mediums as set forth above in detail for claim 1. The limitations of dependent **claims 10-12 and 14** are shown in Figure 3 or disclosed in the specification (see specifically: column 22, line 55 - column 23, line 6 and column 10, lines 51-61).

Regarding **claim 17**, Sitnik discloses a method for allowing a person to listen to sound recorded in a recording medium as aural data in a system as set forth in claim 1 and including the transmission and reproduction steps set forth in the specification. The limitations of dependent **claim 18** is shown in Figure 3 or disclosed in the specification (see specifically, column 22, line 55 - column 23, line 6).

Art Unit: 3627

Regarding **claim 20**, Sitnik discloses a method for allowing a person to listen to sound recorded in a recording medium as aural data in a shop selling said recorded medium as set forth in claim 1 and including the transmission and reproduction steps set forth in the specification. The limitations of dependent **claims 21 and 23** are shown in Figure 3 or disclosed in the specification (see specifically, column 22, line 55 - column 23, line 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sitnik in view of *Official Notice*.

Sitnik discloses all the claimed elements as set forth above but fails to explicitly disclose the use of removable memory in a mobile device, the mobile device comprises a cellular phone, and communication via bluetooth signals.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that it was old and well known at the time the invention was made for mobile devices to have removable memory, for mobile devices to be cellular phones, and communication via bluetooth signals.

U.S. Patent No. 6,771,981 (hereinafter "Zalewski") is cited as factual evidence to support the Examiner's assertion of Official Notice.

Art Unit: 3627

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sitnik with a cell phone with removable memory and communication via bluetooth signals as was old and well known, because utilizing the customer's cell phone reduces the overhead costs required by the retail store to purchase and protect their own portable devices.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Scibora et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a multi-station audio distribution apparatus.

Stern is cited of interest for disclosing a reconfigurable audiovisual previewing system and method of operation.

Jones is cited of interest for disclosing a personal entertainment and communication device.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

Application/Control Number: 09/973,040

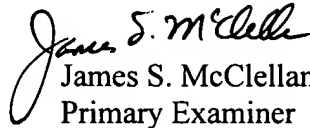
Page 6

Art Unit: 3627

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (Official communications) or
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


James S. McClellan
Primary Examiner
A.U. 3627

jsm
October 28, 2004